



WAYNE *National Forest*

2011-2012
IN REVIEW

*PHOTONATURALISTS
on the Wayne National Forest*



Story and More Photos on page 7



A LETTER FROM OUR SUPERVISOR

This publication is filled with great achievements and successes where employees and partners have dedicated their time and resources to help us care for more than 241,000 acres of public land in southeastern Ohio.

You will read how, with the help of partners, the Forest made an impact on invasive species. Thanks to the assistance of the Ohio Department of Forestry, the Ailanthus population in southern Ohio was mapped.

Another article explains how the Wayne National Forest became a partner of Keep America Beautiful, Inc. with the formation of Keep Southeast Ohio Beautiful. The affiliate covers thirteen Ohio counties and strives to make the region a better place to live, work and play.

Another partnership that is highlighted is the one we have with the Bob Evans Farm Homestead Museum in Rio Grande, Ohio. In celebration of our 75th anniversary, the museum worked with our heritage program to set up a display for public viewing.

In Perry County, a local partnership with the Forest helped complete the Upstream Rock Run Watershed Reclamation Project. You will read how the Forest partnered with several entities to construct a healthy functioning riparian corri-



dor by restoring water quality and increasing the overall health of the watershed ecosystem.

In 2011, white-nose syndrome was detected in our bat population in Lawrence County. You will learn what measures we have taken to slow & monitor the spread of this disease.

In 2012, I'm especially proud of how our workforce managed a surprise from Mother Nature. During a summer storm, widespread

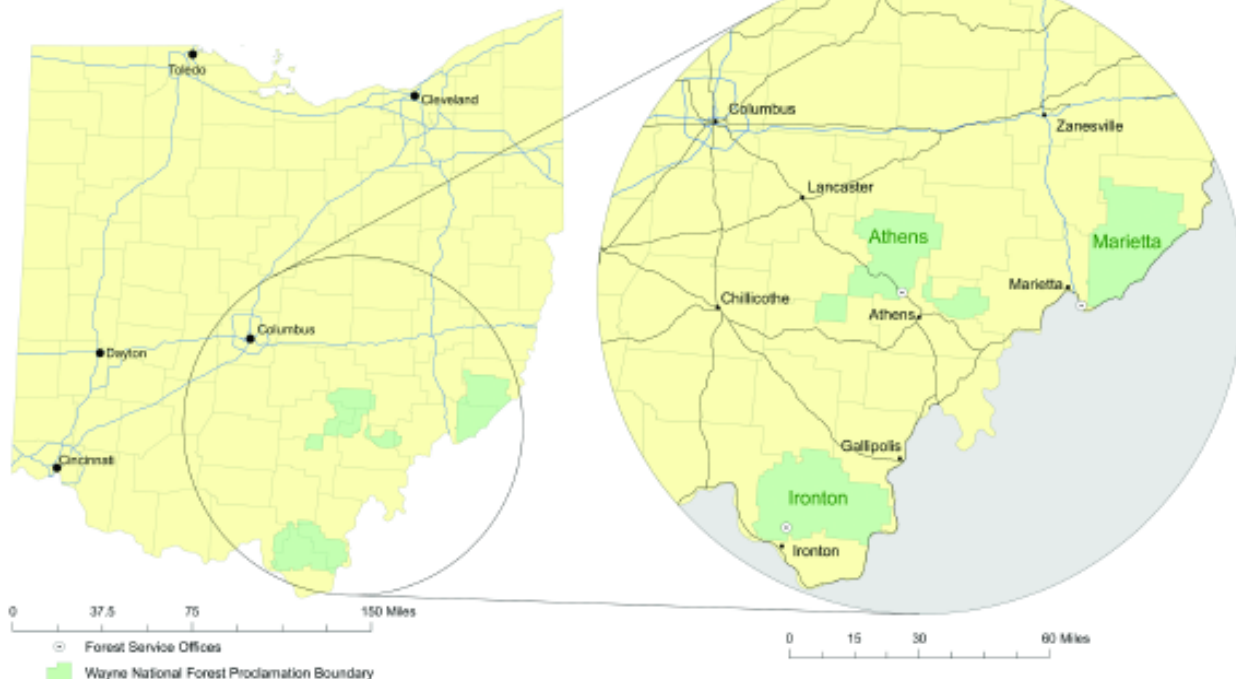
wind damage on over 130,000 acres of the Athens Ranger District caused us to issue an emergency closure order, in the interest of public health and safety. Thanks to our employees and community partners, we were able to recover quickly and reopen the Athens Ranger District to the public.

I consider it a privilege to serve as the Forest Supervisor on the Wayne National Forest. As I look forward, despite tougher budgetary times, the Forest will continue to explore options to operate as efficiently as possible. We will strive to meet goals that enable stewardship of the public lands entrusted to us on behalf of the American people.

ANNE CAREY

Forest Supervisor, Wayne National Forest

WAYNE National Forest



Main front cover photographs: Volunteer Photonnaturalist Michael Rigsby is one of 27 photographers helping the Forest gather information for monitoring purposes.

Mapping Invasive Tree Populations

With the combined efforts of partners to survey, map, treat, and educate about the Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), the Wayne National Forest (Forest) is helping make a regional impact to control invasive species and protect native ecosystems of Appalachia Ohio.

Tree of Heaven, a native tree of China, has been in the United States since 1784. It was available from nurseries by 1840 and planted throughout the Midwest. Its principal selling point was that it would grow almost anywhere. The downside is that it is fast-growing, spreads by both seeds (one tree can produce 325,000 seeds/year) and by root sprouts.

Over a period of eight days (2011), an Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry (ODOF) helicopter flew over 163,256 acres, mapping 1,429 populations of the species that infested over 6,400 acres of the Forest. ODOF employees served as spotters to map infested areas using GPS technology. In early 2013, an additional 80,000 acres were surveyed in three days.

Since winter mapping only spots reproductive female trees, there are undoubtedly more acres of infestation beyond these mapped areas. The aerial mapping data is useful because it can be overlaid with Wayne National Forest Landscape Vegetation Project plans. The maps help the Forest identify areas of invasive treatment prior to silvicultural and prescribed fire implementation to prevent invasive spread by



The Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus altissima) is an invasive species that has infested over 6,400 acres of the Wayne National Forest.

management activities.

This project is financed from a multi-year Challenge Cost Share agreement signed in 2010 by the Forest and the ODOF. The goal for the agreement is to aerially map Tree of Heaven populations in southern Ohio across all boundaries. Areas mapped on non-federal lands will be shared with ODOF Service Foresters and the Appalachian Ohio Weed Control Partnership to reach out and work with private land owners to control Tree of Heaven.

Two grants totaling \$70,000 from the U.S. Forest Service, State and Private Forestry for Forest Health Protection funded two years of aerial mapping of Tree of Heaven in Appalachia Ohio. Additionally, a \$10,000/year grant from North Central Integrated Pest Management funded the following: local education outreach efforts about Tree of Heaven; ground-truthing of aerial mapping results; and surveys for verticillium wilt, a potential biological control of Tree of Heaven. ODOF is putting \$35,000 of in-kind match into the project yearly, and the Forest contributed \$38,250 the first year and an in-kind match of \$3,250 the second year.

Another two years of mapping is planned in the future.



*Athens District Ranger
Gala Goldsmith*

New Leadership for the Athens Ranger District

In August 2011, acting Forest Supervisor Peter Williams announced Gala Goldsmith had been hired to be the new Athens District Ranger.

Goldsmith came to the Forest as the former acting District Ranger for the Mississippi Bluffs District on the Shawnee National Forest in Southern Illinois.

She has 19 years of experience as a Forest Watershed Program Manager and Hydrologist with the National Forests in Mississippi. During her federal career, she served as District Ranger, Congressional Systems Analyst for the U.S. House of Representatives, Recreation, Fish, Wildlife, and Range Staff Officer, and special assignments with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

Before joining the U.S. Forest Service, she spent about five years as a hydrologist for the U.S. Geological Survey.

Goldsmith has a Bachelor's degree in biology and a Master's degree in environmental engineering. She is a graduate of the Forest Service's Middle Leader Program and USDA's Executive Leadership Program.

Gala is a devoted mother of two children, a son (Terrell) and daughter (Erica), and an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

Forest Service Completes Historic Stone Bridge Project in Lawrence County

On Thursday, May 31, 2012, the Wayne National Forest held a dedication ceremony to commemorate the replacement and reopening of the Stone Bridge. Unfortunately, the previous bridge over Storms Creek, within the Lake Vesuvius Recreation Area, was destroyed in a July 2010 flood.

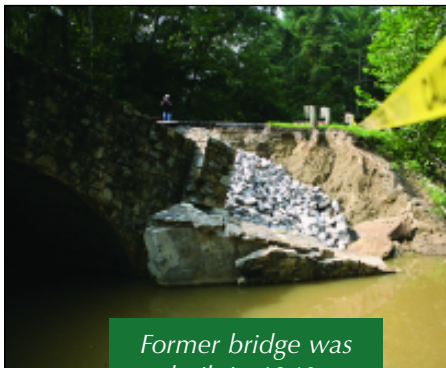
Around 50 people attended the dedication, including Lawrence County Commissioners and Engineers, the Lawrence County Sheriff, the Lawrence County EMA, and a representative from U.S. Representative Bill Johnson's office, as well as key Forest Service personnel. A select group cut the ribbon to signify the official opening of the bridge.

The primary difference between the two bridges is that the reconstructed one has a single arch instead of the double arch design. This improves water flow and will avoid adverse impacts to the bridge. The unusual surge of storm water and debris caused the old double arch design to fail and damaged the already weakened central pier.

The new bridge is a marvelous replica of the old one in keeping with the visual setting of the Lake Vesuvius Recreation Area, a sentiment overwhelmingly voiced by the residents of Lawrence County. The original plaque that was installed on the old bridge was again placed on the new one. An interpretive sign is also being planned for the site to commemorate the unique history of the bridge and its builders.

Funding for the construction of the new bridge came from the Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Soon after the flood, the Wayne National Forest applied for federal assistance through the FHWA Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads (ERFO) program and was awarded \$1.3 million to complete the project.

The original Stone Bridge within the Vesuvius Recreation Area was built in 1940 through the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Its construction was a joint project between the Wayne National Forest and the Lawrence



Former bridge was built in 1940.

County Engineers Office who designed it. Most of the land parcels that comprise the recreation area were purchased in 1936, and the U. S. Forest Service then began the task of improving the area for public recreation. This area was chosen because the configuration of the narrow valley and stream made it an ideal setting for a dam and recreational lake. It was named after the Vesuvius Iron Furnace (1833), the ruins of which are situated near the dam.

When the furnace was listed on the National Register (NR) in 1990, the Stone Bridge was included as a contributing factor to the visual setting. Most of the recreation area (including the dam and seven buildings) was constructed between 1937 and 1941 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Company 0526-C, an African American unit located on the Ironton Ranger District.

The WPA and CCC were government assistance programs created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as part of his New Deal to help the country recover from the Great Depression. The programs created jobs by hiring thousands of Ohioans to work on public projects including the construction of roads, bridges, trails, and structures. The CCC served as the major work force of the Wayne National Forest, building fire lookout towers, roads, and trails and conducting reforestation, flood control, and soil erosion prevention projects. By putting these men to work on resource conservation projects across the United States, President Roosevelt intended the CCC to help solve two of the country's most serious problems, unemployment and resource degradation.

Recreation Opportunities Expand on the Wayne

Several new or renovated facilities and trails opened to the public in 2011. "It was definitely a banner year for recreation. Forest personnel and contractors completed several projects that have been in progress for awhile," said Chad Wilberger, Recreation Program Manager.

Oak Hill Campground

On the Ironton Ranger District, the Oak Hill Campground at the Lake Vesuvius Recreation Area received a complete renovation. The new campground has 32 RV sites, with water and electrical hook-ups. Two new flush restrooms with showers and one new vault restroom were installed. This family campground is located on a ridge above Lake Vesuvius. Reservations can be made online at www.recreation.gov.

Arabia Canoe Launch

The Wayne National Forest Ironton Ranger District, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Watercraft, and the Symmes Creek Restoration Committee celebrated the opening of the Arabia Canoe Launch located near Arabia along Symmes Creek. Funding for the public launch site came from an ODNR grant and will be maintained in partnership with the Symmes Creek Restoration Committee. The site is one of six launch sites located along the Art S. Ferguson Canoe Trail, which follows 32 miles of Symmes Creek in Lawrence County from Arabia to the Chesapeake launch on the Ohio River. Launch sites are also available in Aid, Willow Wood, Getaway, Sky Lake, and Chesapeake. Please be respectful to private and public landowners who have granted permission for you to launch from their sites. The trail was named after Art Ferguson, who founded the Symmes Creek Restoration Committee to promote recreation and conservation on the creek.

Superior OHV Trail

The 13-mile Superior Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trail was completed in 2011. The trail, with a trailhead off State Route 522, connects to the Pine Creek OHV Trail System, giving riders a 33-mile trail experience.

Local Community Celebrates Opening of Launch Site

Just in time for the 2011 Memorial Day weekend, the Wayne National Forest and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Watercraft opened the Frontier Boat Launch Facility in Washington County along the Ohio River Scenic Byway north of Marietta.

The Frontier Boat Launch is located on a six-acre site with 70 boat and trailer parking spaces and toilet facilities. It is free and open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Division of Watercraft awarded \$2.2 million to this effort. Communities like nearby New Matamoras hope they benefit from the new boat launch.

"This is what this area needs," said Dennis Agin, mayor of New Matamoras. "This is that punch in the arm that hopefully will carry us to the next step."

What makes this project special and successful is how it was proposed and supported by lifelong, dedicated community leaders, like the late Sam Kidd and the local residents represented by the Frontier Local Economic Development Association (FLEDA).

When it came to bridging the gap between the Forest Service and the construction project, Kidd, serving as FLEDA President, helped connect Wayne National Forest with the local community.

Mayor Agin told a group of spectators during the opening ceremony that "The best way to describe Sam was, I guess, would be the modern day Will Rogers. Sam could walk into your office, tell you a joke, ask you to do something you didn't want to do, but by the time he got done talking about it, you were convinced it was your idea and you couldn't wait to do it. Thing about Sam, he loved Washington County. He really did. And anything that he could do to better this area, he would do it."



Sam Kidd

Kidd's widow Vesta represented FLEDA at the ribbon cutting ceremony and helps keep the organization active in the community.

The boat launch site is one of the few fully accessible boat launch facilities along that section of the Ohio River.

In 2012, the Wayne National Forest leadership, recreation and engineering staff was nationally recognized by the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service for successfully completing notable recreation projects that demonstrate the Forest's commitment to providing accessible recreation facilities and programs.



Ribbon Cutting at the Frontier Boat Launch

Kids Educational Programs a Hit

In 2011 and 2012, over 10,000 kids and adults increased their knowledge and enjoyment of nature by participating in several conservation education activities hosted by the Wayne National Forest. A big hit was the Wild Weekend Discovery Series designed for kids preschool to 5th grade.



A child looks at fungus using a magnifying glass.

Wayne's Conservation Education Specialist Sarah Forrest customized each program and ensured it sparked the curiosity of those that attended the sessions. The program offered a variety of topics from stars to snowflakes.

One parent commented, "This program is all (my child) talks about for the rest of the week. He loves to go home and tell Grandma everything he did!"

Forrest herself brings passion to the program. She notes, "It is great to bring a sense of wonder to the children and adults in the communities." She was recognized in 2011 for her outstanding work by receiving the Bill Schultz Natural Resource Award.

New in 2012, in observance of National Get Outdoors Day, the Wayne National Forest and several local, state, and national partners hosted Play-Outside-Weekend at three recreational areas on the Marietta Unit of the Athens Ranger District. The event engaged more than 200 children and adults and about 18 partners along with a host of local community leaders in a plethora of activities and training, including but not limited to: archery, disc golf, fishing, horseback riding, safety bike skills, wildlife hikes, kids' triathlon, star gazing and water safety. The Play-Outside-Weekend is scheduled for June 7-9, 2013, and planners hope to continue it as an annual event.

Alcohol Restricted and Helmets Required On Motorized Trails

In January 2011, former Forest Supervisor Jo Reyer established new restrictions when she signed a Forest order to help reduce the number and severity of off-highway vehicle (OHV) accidents and to bring the Forest in line with the safety requirements of other trail providers.

The use of alcohol is prohibited within key areas of the OHV trail system. Additionally, motorized riders are required to wear a helmet and eye protection.

The order states the possession of alcohol is not permitted while riding an OHV on the Wayne National Forest. The ban also includes no possession of alcohol within 100 feet of the centerline of designated OHV trails and certain access roads and within 100 feet of the cleared edges of OHV trailheads. The Forest order also requires riders operating or riding an off-highway vehicle to wear eye protection and a helmet that meets United States Department of Transportation (DOT) safety standards.

The order covers the Monday Creek OHV Trail System on the Athens District and the Hanging Rock, Pine Creek, and Superior OHV Trail System on the Ironton District.

Endangered Beetle Reintroduced to the Wayne National Forest

The spring of 2012 ended a five-year period where 974 pairs of the American Burying Beetle (ABB) were reintroduced onto the Wayne National Forest Athens Ranger District in Athens and Perry counties.



Over the last five years, well over 100 volunteers have helped release the ABB. Within selected areas they dug several small holes. Dead rats were placed in the holes, along with a male and a female beetle. The holes were covered with cardboard and wire to help protect them from wild animals like raccoons. Two weeks later, researchers returned to check for reproductive success and the presence of beetle larvae.

Monitoring of ABB reproduction was made yearly after placement of the beetles and every year produced successful larvae production with thousands of larvae estimated to have been produced. During the last two years, multiple pairs of ABB larvae were collected and sent to the ABB rearing facility at the Cincinnati Zoo. These larvae were collected in order to start a population of beetles to place and reintroduce to other areas in Ohio.

Forest staff hope the beetles are getting a foothold and establishing a self-sustaining population. Monitoring efforts to document dispersion and reproduction of the ABB will continue on the Wayne.

Partners in this effort include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Ohio State University, Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Ohio Division of Wildlife, The Wilds, St. Louis Zoo, Cincinnati Zoo, and a myriad of individual volunteers.



Photonaturalist Program Generates Amazing Pictures

Over the course of two years, 27 volunteer photonaturalists have provided hundreds of photographs authenticating a diversity of wildlife and plant species on the Forest. They have contributed nearly 366 hours of work for the Forest Service armed with everything from small point and shoot to high end cameras.

The most exciting photograph was of *Libellula deplanata*, the Blue Corporal dragonfly, a state endangered species, which was photographed at Rutherford Wetlands. Until this documentation and verification by the Ohio Odonata Society, the Blue Corporal dragonfly was not known to occur on the Forest.

Their work was an invaluable asset in assisting Athens Ranger District wildlife biologist Lynda Andrews in gathering information for monitoring purposes.

"Species lists were generated for 13 areas on the Forest with the majority of the species being dragonflies and other insects with little known distribution data across the District," said Andrews.

Andrews, a photo enthusiast herself organized the program and agrees the response to the program was tremendous.

Though all nature photographs are welcomed, our photonaturalists knew that we are particularly interested in some of the lesser known species on the Forest such as dragonflies.

A sample of the photographs are posted on the Wayne National Forest flickr site @

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/waynenf/>

Little Wood Satyr by L. Andrews



Male Calico Pennant by L. Sells

Henslow's Sparrow by M. Nazelrod



Eastern Tent Caterpillar by M. Reed



Eastern Fence Lizard by L. Andrews



Female Blue Corporal Dragonfly by L. Andrews



Male Calico Pennant by L. Sells



Partnerships Help Forest with Illegal Dumping Issue

In February 2012, the Wayne National Forest (Forest) in southeastern Ohio became a partner of Keep America Beautiful, Inc. (KAB) with the formation of Keep Southeast Ohio Beautiful, an affiliate of KAB that covers 13 Ohio counties. While the Forest spearheaded the formation of the affiliate, it is managed by several community partners that meet on a regular basis to discuss the business of the group.



As one of the partners in helping make southeast Ohio a better place to live, work and play, the Wayne National Forest, Keep Southeast Ohio Beautiful, Keep Ohio Beautiful and the Ohio

Department of Natural Resources partnered with the Ohio Department of Transportation to host the kickoff of the State Roadway Cleanup, all in support of the KAB Great American Cleanup effort held on Saturday, April 14th, 2012.

More than 100 volunteers attended the event at the Wayne National Forest headquarters. The volunteers collected 125 bags of litter off roadways in Athens and Lawrence County. Volunteers also collected 780 pounds of recyclables. The event partnered with the Athens City-County Health Department to host a free Community Tire Drop-off that yielded 1,500 scrap tires. The Wayne's Wild Weekend Discovery Series delivered an anti-littering message to several local children.

On the Ironton Ranger District (IRD), they were quick to participate in a Friday, May 4th, 2012 Great American Cleanup event known as the Lawrence Countywide Cleanup, held every year by the Lawrence-Scioto County Solid Waste Management District.

With the help of local volunteers from the Symmes Creek Restoration Committee, the IRD was able to double its efforts to beautify Lake Vesuvius.

The Symmes Creek Restoration Committee partnered with the Forest by using canoes to retrieve and remove two truckloads of trash from Lake Vesuvius

while some individuals hiked the lake's edge to improve the Lakeshore Trail. Compared to last year's cleanup effort, the general consensus was that less trash was present. The district contributes the decrease in trash to their annual cleanup efforts, as well as stream flood control and cleanup efforts by the Lawrence County Community Action Organization. The organization has cleared blocked streams and picked up trash from area streams leading into Lake Vesuvius. In 2010 and 2011, heavy rains flooded area streams bringing high volumes of trash into the lake.

The IRD has made a huge impact in the last six years cleaning up illegal dump sites. They credit much of their success to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA). Thanks to the Ohio Scrap Tire Cleanup Program, administered by Ohio EPA, it is helping the entire Wayne National Forest properly dispose of thousands of tires that have been illegally dumped on the Forest.

In the last two years, over 3,000 scrapped tires have been collected and removed for recycling from the IRD. On the Athens Ranger District, more than 900 scrapped tires were recently removed by the Ohio EPA., furthering the collective effort to keep southeast Ohio beautiful.

The state and federal partnership started in 2009, after the two government entities worked on a project in rural Gallia County. Prior to 2009, the Forest had to pay (\$1.25 to \$1.75 a tire) to a facility in Ashland, Kentucky, to dispose of the tires properly.

In Ohio, dumping tires is considered a felony offense. Tires are ideal breeding sites for several species of mosquitoes, some of which carry diseases. Tires are easily filled by rain and collect leaf litter, which provide an ideal "incubator" for mosquito larvae.

The public is reminded that illegal dumping on the Forest destroys the natural beauty and degrades habitat, as well as discourages people from visiting trashed areas. Additional awareness is necessary by all community residents and Forest users to control illegal dumping within not only the IRD, but the entire Forest.

Efforts like the two Great American Cleanup campaigns and the partnership with the Ohio EPA help visitors enjoy the unspoiled beauty of our National Forests, which belong to all Americans.



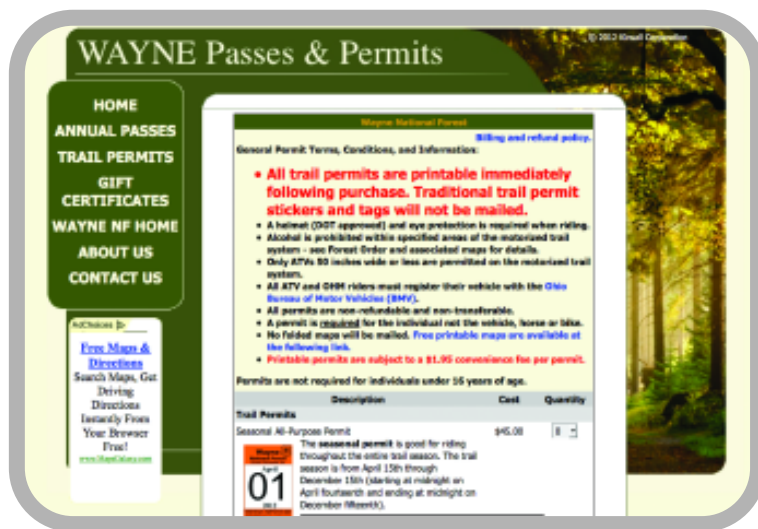
Forest Embraces Technology to offer Permits and Passes Online

Purchasing a trail permit for the Wayne National Forest in southeastern Ohio is now just a click away! In 2011, the Forest began offering secure on-line purchasing of its trail permits, trail permit gift certificates, and the Interagency Annual Pass.

"To purchase any of the products, visit the Forest website (www.fs.usda.gov/wayne) and click on Passes and Permits in the left column. The online store is open 24/7, so the public can make their purchase when it's convenient for them," said Recreation Program Manager Chad Wilberger. "No more waiting in lines, and permits are shipped directly to the purchaser."

Visitors will continue to be able to purchase trail permits at any Forest office location or at over 20 local vendors in southeast and central Ohio. A complete list of locations is available on the Forest website. The Interagency Annual Pass, Senior, and Access Pass also remain available at Forest office locations.

Gift certificates may be purchased and redeemed for a trail permit (Seasonal:\$45, Three-Day:\$24, or Daily:\$12). The gift certificates do not require a valid state driver's license to purchase, however, a valid driver's license is required at the time they are redeemed for a trail permit. Gift certificates are valid for one year from the date of purchase. The public can also purchase gift certificates online or at any Forest office location.



New in 2012, the Wayne National Forest began offering online printable trail permits during the period 4/1 through 12/15. Online purchased permits can now be printed from home or any location that offers access to a computer with internet service and a color printer. Permits should be visibly displayed on the ATV, horse, bicycle, or person when riding trails.



Free 8 1/2" x 11" printable trail maps are also available on the Forest website under "Maps and Publications."

The 241,000 acre Wayne National Forest in southeastern Ohio has over 300 miles of trails on the Forest for hiking, ATV riding, mountain biking, or horseback riding. Annually, the Forest estimates over 40,000 visitors come to ride the Wayne's trail system.

Athens High School Seniors Volunteer

Every year, high school seniors are found throughout Athens County doing community service work during Athens High School Senior Make a Difference Day. On November 9, 2012, more than 100 seniors volunteered at 18 job sites around the county, including the Wayne National Forest.

This marked the fifth consecutive year the school has included the Wayne National Forest as one of their worksites. The students spent much of the morning at Mud Pond, site of the Cawthorne Watershed Project. Fifteen students picked up about 30 bags of trash from an illegal dumpsite that has affected the health and safety of the watershed. In addition, 50 tires were also picked up and sent off to a recycling center.

The seniors also helped remove Japanese honeysuckle, a non-native invasive species that was found affecting trees

near the pond. Thanks to the students, trees are now able to grow without being hindered by the invasive vine.

In the afternoon, the students raked and picked up fallen leaves around the Wayne National Forest headquarters.

The seniors exhibited a true dedication and commitment to the task throughout the day and made a difference to the health of the watershed and improved the appearance of our workplace.



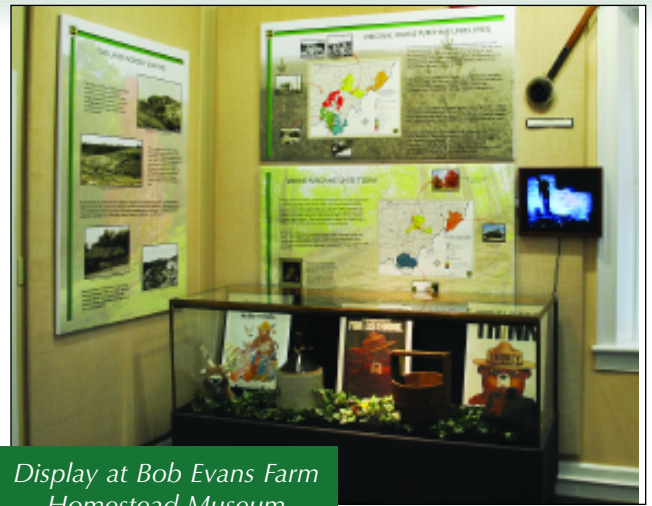
Local Museum Sharing History of the Forest

In honor of the Wayne National Forest's 75th Anniversary, the Bob Evans Farm Homestead Museum in Rio Grande, Ohio, hosted a display to expose thousands of people to the history of the Forest.

The exhibit started with a brief account of the beginnings of the conservation movement and the U.S. Forest Service, followed by the Weeks Act. The display told the story of the development of the Wayne, from the purchase of degraded and tax delinquent lands, to the history of the CCC camps, then the transformation of the heavily-impacted lands into the Forest as it is today.

Over the last six years, the Wayne's Heritage Program has been graciously invited on four occasions by Ray McKinniss and Gale Leslie, managers of Bob Evans Farms, Inc. to develop exhibits for their museum. Each of the exhibits the Forest has developed have involved many partners and reached thousands of people.

The museum is located in the original brick home of Bob and Jewell Evans, which has been renovated as a museum to tell the story of their life and business entrepreneurship.



Display at Bob Evans Farm Homestead Museum

In 2005, the Forest developed an exhibit about the Underground Railroad. A Coal Mining History exhibit was featured in 2006 while the history of Smokey Bear to commemorate his 65th birthday was featured in 2009.

The Forest is currently exploring the development of an exhibit to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War over the next several years.

Vesuvius Cemetery Cleanup

On May 17, 2012, a group of Wayne National Forest employees conducted a massive clean-up of the historic Vesuvius Cemetery located on the Ironton Ranger District. The cemetery is associated with nearby Vesuvius Iron Furnace (1833-1906) and was established as early as 1842 as a resting place for furnace workers and their families. Most such furnace cemeteries in this area, known as the Hanging Rock Iron Region, have many burials due to the hazardous nature of furnace work and the associated high mortality rate.

For the past year, Edie Gillenwater, an employee on the Ironton Ranger District, has become very interested in Vesuvius Cemetery and has conducted a considerable amount of research on the site. As time has permitted, and with assistance from several fellow District employees, Edie's efforts have begun to tell the stories of the families who rest here. Her work indicates that there may be up to 100 people buried there, including at least 12 veterans.

As is often the case with 19th century cemeteries, many of the grave stones have disappeared. Over time the stones break or fall over and without repair become covered or sometimes discarded. Consequently, most of the Vesuvius graves are currently unmarked and unknown because no



detailed plot records have yet been found.

The Elizabeth Township Trustees have had a Special Use agreement since 1941 to mow the cemetery and grade the road into the site (the cemetery is located off County Road 29). A gate was erected at the county road several years ago to discourage vandalism and people driving back to the cemetery to dump trash. Yet it is a short walk and the Vesuvius Cemetery is still an active cemetery where people bury and visit their loved ones. However, the site is in desperate need of stabilization and additional investigation.

The objective of the clean-up day was to remove vegetation that either poses a public safety risk or has impacted or concealed graves. The work involved removing two hazardous dead trees and extensive ground cover in a few locations (invasive yucca plants and several small trees).

A total of six pick-up truck loads and four large bags of trash and debris were removed by an industrious team of 15 Forest employees and a work crew from the nearby STAR Community Justice Center.

The fruits of this labor uncovered several grave stones, and one stone was even reassembled from the discovery of its long broken fragments.

Abandoned Mine Lands Restored to Improve Watershed Health

The Upstream Rock Run Reclamation project, funded by the American Recovery Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), was completed in late 2011.

It is located just east of State Highway 93 between the nearby towns of New Straitsville and Shawnee, Ohio. Both of the bordering towns are highly interested in cleaning up old mining areas and encouraging more avenues for economic development in the area. The primary source of pollution is acid mine drainage.



This area had long been recognized by the U. S. Forest Service, state, and private partners and the surrounding communities as an opportunity to create a highly desirable recreation area for the public to enjoy. In addition to interpreting the

natural history of the area, the Forest Service also has the opportunity to educate the public about the importance of continued cleanup of old abandoned mine lands and how various ecosystems function.

History:

The Upstream Rock Run drainage was heavily impacted by underground mining activities in the late 1800's and again in the mid 1900's from strip mining. The drainages were blocked by piles of old mine waste and soils. Based on average rainfall estimates, it is projected that the 60 million gallons of water that falls here in a typical year ended up in the mines, producing acid mine drainage. The blockages created a bowl shaped area which trapped the rainfall and prevented it from flowing out of the area as a stream. In some parts of the drainage the underground mines have collapsed causing fairly deep depressions on the surface of the land, which are called subsidences.

Acid mine drainage is toxic to aquatic life and has a harmful effect on the adjacent riparian vegetation. However, many subsidences are covered over with leaf litter and debris, or have been back-filled with dirt like the ones in the Upstream Rock Run drainage, so they are not readily apparent on the land surface.

Thanks to our partners:

- **Hocking College**
- **Monday Creek Restoration Project (MCRP)**
- **Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)**

As of December 31, 2012, partnerships have contributed \$6,755,559 in the past 10 years, bringing the total to \$13,556,000 in construction contracts to help restore 46 abandoned mine land sites on the Forest.

The goal of this Recovery Act project known as "Devastation to Destination" is to construct a healthy functioning riparian corridor, restore water quality, and create an integrated land management strategy. The project will increase the overall health of the watershed ecosystem, resulting in species diversity among the aquatic and wildlife habitats that once existed in the watershed.

Over the last fifteen years, the Wayne National Forest and its partners have worked together to restore the Monday Creek Watershed, which encompasses 75,000 acres in three counties on the Athens Ranger District. For nearly a century, the aquatic life that once thrived in this watershed has been virtually dead. Today, the restoration efforts of the 27-mile-long main stem has resulted in the identification of 25 species of fish. In 2009, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) reversed their designation from non-restorable to being able to achieve warm water habitat status. The Forest attributes its partnership to the success due to the sharing of expertise, resources, and funding that is required for a watershed of this size.

Forest Service Employees Help Victims of Superstorm Sandy

In late 2012, a group of 12 Wayne National Forest employees were part of a 20-person chainsaw crew sent to the Northeast to help Superstorm Sandy cleanup efforts. Other crew members were from the Shawnee National Forest and Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in Illinois.

The group was one of 43 U. S. Forest Service fire crews from 17 states working in storm-ravaged areas in Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and West Virginia.

Steve Alarid, Wayne National Forest timber manager and firefighter, was among the team members dispatched shortly after Sandy hammered the Northeast.

"We were initially sent to Forest Park in Queens, NY, to clear roads and trails, so the public could get around. About 90 trees, some probably 150 to 200 years old, were affected by the storm," said Alarid. "The first few nights we stayed in a local volunteer fire department."

During its two-week assignment the crew also provided support to local emergency response agencies and assisted at FEMA facilities. For example, after about three days of cleaning up trees, the crew was reassigned to help organize a receiving and distribution center in Long Beach, NY.

Gordon Farley, a Wayne National Forest minerals and special use administration specialist and firefighter, said the Sandy recovery effort was the largest incident on which he has ever worked.

The western Pennsylvania native who now lives in Athens County said, "I really felt the storm victims were grateful for our assistance. From Queens to downtown Manhattan, we interacted with the public on a daily basis. We even got around using the subway system. That mode of transportation was a lot different from what I'm accustomed to on a wildfire, but it was helpful getting around."

"While working at the Long Beach Receiving and Distribution Center, we really helped in organizing items as they were being received by donors. We helped separate items like canned goods, clothing, water, baby items, and cleaning supplies. It was amazing how much clothing was coming into the



facility." The volunteers on site did a great job distributing the supplies, said Farley.

In a spirit of cooperation and concern, several Forest Service employees and other interagency wildland firefighting specialists scrambled to fill orders from the Federal Emergency Management Agency needed for the massive cleanup job.

The Forest Service's experience in wildland fire management makes it an ideal partner to help coordinate operations during a natural disaster. The Forest

Service developed the Incident Command System that governs the actions of everyone involved in disaster recovery after years of experience in wildland fire suppression operations.



The Forest Service reported that nine Incident Management Teams were operating mobilization centers, staging areas, and supporting Emergency Operations Centers to provide relief. Under emergency support functions detailed in the National Response Framework, the Forest Service assumes responsibility for providing firefighting assets and personnel who coordinate disaster relief operations, oversee supply distributions, and provide strategic organizational experts at regional and national coordination centers.

"Our Incident Management Teams bring skills in organization, planning, and logistics to meet the needs of communities tragically affected by Hurricane Sandy," said Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell.

At the height of the hurricane response effort, approximately 1,200 interagency firefighters organized by the Forest Service were sent to help communities in need.



White-Nose Syndrome Detected Among Bats

In 2011, wildlife officials confirmed the first Ohio case of white-nose syndrome in bats hibernating in an abandoned mine on the Wayne National Forest Ironton Ranger District in Lawrence County.

During February and March of 2011, state and federal biologists surveyed mines located in Ohio to assess bat populations and conduct surveillance for white-nose syndrome. Biologists documented over 1,300 bats hibernating at the Lawrence County mine, of which 69 percent were little brown bats; 21 percent were Indiana bats (state and federally endangered); 10 percent were tri-colored bats, with smaller numbers of big brown bats and northern bats. Dr. Kevin Keel at the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study in Athens, Georgia evaluated samples collected in the mine. Histopathology confirmed observations and the presence of the disease. The mine site is gated and protected from public access.

White-nose syndrome was first detected in New York State in 2006 and has killed more than a million cave-hibernating bats in the eastern North America.

Since its initial discovery, white-nose has been confirmed in 15 states and two Canadian provinces; it is suspected to occur in two additional states.

White-nose syndrome is associated with a newly identified fungus called *Geomyces destructans*. The disease got its name from how the fungus appears and grows into white tufts on the muzzles of infected bats. Biologists believe the main method of transfer of the disease is bat-to-bat transmission. It's also believed that humans can transport the fungal spores on their shoes, clothes, and other gear from contaminated sites to new sites. White-nose syndrome does not affect human health, in part because the fungus requires temperatures cooler than the human body to survive.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U. S. Forest Service have taken pro-active steps in anticipation of white-nose syndrome. For instance, the Wayne National Forest instituted a comprehensive mine closure order on Forest Service property in 2010; conducted bat population monitoring, engaged in heightened white-nose

syndrome surveillance measures, and has listed the little brown, northern, and tri-color bats to the sensitive species listing within the federal forest. State and federal agencies will continue to monitor Ohio's bat population; conduct disease surveillance for the syndrome; and implement management strategies to reduce the spread of the disease where applicable.

The numbers of bat deaths nationwide associated with the white-nose syndrome are unprecedented in recent

history. The fast rate at which white-nose syndrome spread across eastern North America; the high rate of mortality; and the previously unknown fungal pathogen have made this a challenging disease event. Scientists are actively evaluating the bat species that are most at risk; surveying caves for the presence of the susceptible bats and the disease; and developing strategies for disease management.

People can help slow the disease spread and reduce disturbance to bats by staying out of caves and mines. Ohioans who observe more than six dead bats or large numbers of bats flying outside in the winter (less than

40°F), especially near a cave or mine where bats are known to hibernate, should report those observations to the ODNR Division of Wildlife at wildinfo@dnr.state.oh.us, or 1-800-WILDLIFE (945-3543). People should take the same precautions when dealing with any wild animal, avoid touching wildlife and do not pick up sick or dead bats.

Bats play an important role in the ecosystem, serving as a top predator for night-flying insects including mosquitoes, beetles, moths, and other human, agricultural and forest pests.

For more information about WNS and Ohio bats, visit

<http://bit.ly/WhiteNoseSyndrome>
<http://whitenosesyndrome.org>

View other photos from the 2011 survey:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsnortheast/sets/72157626256548727>



White-nose syndrome was confirmed in an abandoned limestone mine on the Ironton Ranger District of the Wayne National Forest in Lawrence County, Ohio, by the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (Athens, GA) on 24 March 2011.

Partnership Helps Improve Wildlife Opening Habitat

The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) has been greatly involved with the conservation of species and the management of habitats within southeastern Ohio. On the Wayne National Forest, the partnership with other agencies has worked vigorously to address issues to protect the environment and address local management issues.

Through the Openlands Habitat Program on the Wayne National Forest, the Forest is providing habitat for species that require grassland and shrubland habitat for all or part of their life cycle.

Maintenance and enhancement of openlands habitats benefits a host of wildlife species including the wild turkey, American woodcock, black bear, white-tailed deer, native pollinators, and grassland/shrubland birds.



In 2011-2012, 846 acres of the Wayne National Forest was treated through the NWTf's financial support of \$60,000, with an additional \$30,000 coming from the National Forest Foundation.

The NWTf State Board of Directors has also committed \$30,000 for 2013.

NWTf state superfunds (funds generated through support banquets) have matched funding from the National Forest Foundation for maintenance of early successional habitat. The maintenance is essential for the continued existence of many declining species within the region.



In late 2011, a contractor on the Wayne National Forest treats open lands for wildlife habitat improvement north of Nelsonville, adjacent to the Hocking River.

Sharing Visions for Recreation and Tourism in Southeast Ohio

The Wayne National Forest and the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs partnered with the Marietta-Washington County Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) to help introduce the Community Engagement through Recreation & Tourism (CERT) initiative. CERT is a collaborative development of shared visions for recreation and tourism in southeast Ohio and provides interested parties an opportunity to reach beyond boundaries and explore new business approaches. In this spirit, CERT discussions seek to spur conversation so that we may begin a journey of collective learning and together begin to imagine a more sustainable future.

The CVB assisted the Wayne National Forest in finding a facility to hold a discussion on sustainable recreation and tourism and the value of recreation and tourism in SE Ohio. The CVB developed a list of potential participants that would be interested in recreation and tourism, and also worked with the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs in facilitating a discussion with the participants.

In March 2012, during the first phase of CERT, numerous stakeholders attended a meeting at Marietta College and identified four key areas of concern:

- **Education, Awareness, Information Sharing and Cross Promotion**
- **Structural and Economic Development**
- **Programs and Event Development**

• *Reaching the Younger Generation*

In December 2012, these four areas were presented to the stakeholders as topics for group discussion.

Stakeholders selected which of four group discussions to participate in though none chose "engaging youth." Within each topic area, the small group was asked to discuss: What can we work on together? What are the opportunities, interests, efforts that we could work on in collaboration? What would we like to see happen? In order to pursue efforts in this area, who needs to be involved and are they here? What role can you or your organization play in this effort? What are the next steps?

A number of attendees at the December meeting identified possible actions that they or their organizations could take. Both the Marietta-Washington County CVB and the Parkersburg CVB indicated that they are ready and able to promote activities and events and serve as an informational hub. The Wayne National Forest representatives noted that there will be at least two more conversations like this

throughout the region of the Wayne National Forest, and additional opportunities may surface from these dialogues.

Several follow-up meetings are planned throughout 2013.

Participants wanting to be a part of the effort are welcome to join us. Please contact Ann Grasso or Chad Wilberger at (740) 753-0101 for more details.



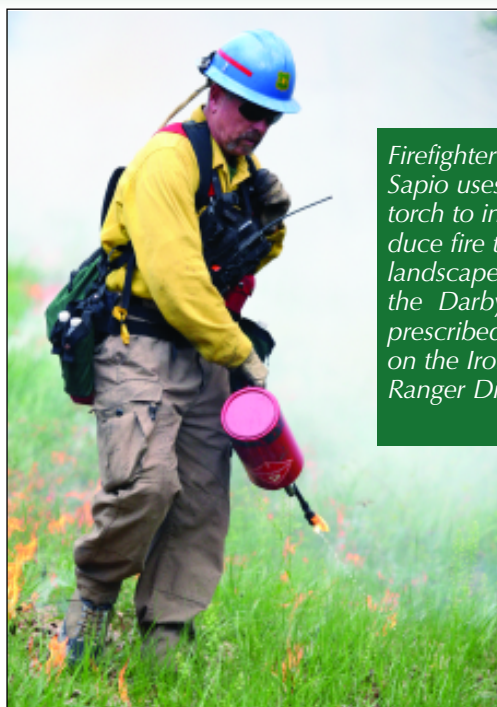
Forest Employees Restoring Oak-hickory Forest

In the fall of 2011 on the Ironton Ranger District, 26 Wayne National Forest employees expanded their skills and accomplished something that seemed out of reach, that was to conduct the first prescribed burn in four years that was carried out by Forest employees.

"The Wayne is very fortunate to have cross-trained employees in fire operations. They help the Forest implement our burns, which are designed to restore oak-hickory forests and improve wildlife habitat," said Gary Willison, fire program group leader. "Many of the employees work as a wildlife biologist, archaeologist or even a botanist, so I feel they have an invested interest in ensuring the prescribed burn is a success."

By staffing the 545 acre burn with Forest employees, it also helped significantly to reduce the overall cost of the operation. Estimated cost per acre to burn was \$32, compared to \$60 per acre on previous burns.

The only employee that wasn't from the Wayne was



Firefighter Steve Sapio uses a drip torch to introduce fire to the landscape during the Darby Creek prescribed burn on the Ironton Ranger District.

Tedd Huffman, the regional air specialist assigned to the Forest to help set up and monitor smoke generated by the burn.

Thanks to the employees the burn was a big step forward for the Wayne to continue refining its prescribed burning operations and improving its oak-hickory ecosystem.

The Wayne National Forest seeks to keep oak-hickory forests from losing their dominance on the landscape in southeast Ohio. This forest type is fire dependent, meaning occasional prescribed burning actually helps them out compete other species of trees like shade loving maple and beech.

Through the use of prescribed burning, the Forest is creating conditions that allow young oak and hickory trees to thrive. A Forest with oak and hickory trees provide critical habitat to a variety of wildlife species.

During fiscal year 2012, the Forest completed burning 1,828 acres in five burn units.

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WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST 2011/2012 PAYMENTS TO COUNTIES

In the past two years these Ohio counties received an average of \$4.64 per acre for NF lands within their counties. In addition monies were also paid for road projects, cooperative law enforcement, and volunteer fire department support. Although national forests do not pay property taxes for the land managed by the federal government, these are funds paid in lieu of taxes to compensate local governments for the land taken off the tax rolls. (Payments below are for both 2011 and 2012.)

County	NF Acreage	PILT Payment	Secure Rural Schools Payments	Mineral Payments	Total Payment to County
Athens	18,640	12,454	65,601	9,763	87,818
Gallia	17,563	20,810	44,155	8,934	73,899
Hocking	26,002	17,402	85,864	13,624	116,890
Jackson	1,701	1,117	6,058	891	8,006
Lawrence	73,416	295,763	30,203	36,556	362,522
Monroe	24,414	18,405	69,223	12,724	100,352
Morgan	3,334	2,226	15,141	1,774	19,111
Noble	694	446	3,781	364	4,611
Perry	22,331	14,946	89,875	11,607	116,428
Scioto	11,625	7,779	36,240	6,092	50,111
Vinton	1,869	1,250	8,540	979	10,769
Washington	39,602	57,528	91,298	20,624	169,450
TOTAL	241,191	450,146	545,979	123,902	1,120,047

NOTE: All acres managed as national forest are not entitled to PILT payments.

Snapshot: Land and Minerals Program Activity

The Wayne National Forest land purchase program buys land from willing sellers to improve the management efficiency of the Forest. As of December 31, 2012, the Forest includes 241,191 acres in twelve southeastern Ohio counties.

In 2011 and 2012, the Forest Service acquired four parcels of land on the Athens Ranger District totaling almost 75 acres.

- One parcel (2 acres) near the historic village of Shawnee, in Perry County, Ohio.
- Also in Perry County, one parcel (1.19 acres) was purchased adjacent to the Upstream Rock Run Reclamation site.
- In Athens County, 8 acres was purchased near the area where the endangered American burying beetle was reintroduced.
- In Washington County, 63.77 acres was purchased on the Marietta Unit.

The acquired properties were inholdings, land surrounded by National Forest System land, that improved consolidation of the Wayne National Forest.

Minerals:

On August 27, 2012, Forest Supervisor Anne Carey announced there is no need to correct or amend the 2006

Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) to allow horizontal drilling for natural gas using high volume hydraulic fracturing technology, nor is there the need to supplement the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that was prepared for the Forest Plan. Her decision came after a team of Forest Service specialists examined the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that was developed for the revised Forest Plan to determine if the impacts associated with the development of horizontal wells as projected by the Bureau of Land Management were addressed in the FEIS/Forest Plan.

On the Wayne National Forest, mineral development is an important component of resource management. The development of federal and privately owned minerals underlying the Wayne National Forest provides revenues and income to local communities. The federal government contributes royalties received from mineral production on federal minerals to those counties within the Forest. (See chart on page 15)

One Federal Lease for a natural gas well in Hocking County was developed in 2012 using conventional drilling techniques.

Further details can be found on our Oil & Gas activities website at: www.fs.usda.gov/wayne

Wayne National Forest 2011-2012 Regional Forester Award Recipients

Award Category: *Walking the Talk for Sustainability*

Wayne National Forest Sustainability Team: Rachel Orwan, Mike Nicklow, Katrina Schultes, Cheryl Coon, Nicole Stump, Aurora Roemmich, Gary Chancey, Chris Wilson, Dawn McCarthy, Jarel Bartig, Nick Galentin.

Award Category: *Protecting Ecosystems Across Boundaries*

Restoring Abandoned Mine Lands at a Watershed Scale

Wayne National Forest Watershed Team: Gary Willison, Watershed Group Leader, Pam Stachler, Forest Hydrologist, Mike Nicklow, Environmental Engineer, Katrina Schultes, Wildlife Biologist, Walter Grebeck, Engineering Technician/COR, Latasha Lyte, Soil Scientist, Chris Wilson, Engineer, Monday Creek Restoration Project (MCRP), Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Resources Management (DMRM), Ohio University, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, and US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE). See related story on page 11.

Award Category: *Revolutionize Effectiveness and Efficiency*

Appalachian Ohio Ailanthus Initiative Team: Cheryl Coon (U. S. Forest Service, Wayne National Forest), Nicole Stump (U. S. Forest Service, Wayne National Forest), Joe Barber (Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources (ODNR), Aaron Kloss (Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources (ODNR), Joanne Rebeck (USFS, Northern Research Station), Tom Shuman (Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources (ODNR), Danzil Walker (Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources (ODNR), Courtney Streithorst (Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources (ODNR), Buster Keaton (Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources (ODNR). See related story on page 3.



WAYNE
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<http://www.flickr.com/photos/waynenf/>

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and Athens Ranger District
13700 US Highway 33 • Nelsonville, OH 45764-9880
Work: (740) 753-0101

Athens Ranger District-Marietta Unit
27750 State Route 7 • Marietta, OH 45750-9740
Work: (740) 373-9055

Ironton Ranger District
6518 State Route 93 • Pedro, OH 45659-8912
Work: (740) 534-6500

MOVING FIREWOOD TRANSPORTS TREE-KILLING INSECTS AND DISEASES

